

20 September 1966

25X1A

To: [redacted]

Subject: DN55000-1 PARACHUTES

Several pilots have problems with the DN55000-1 parachutes because the stiff spreader bar across the top of the shoulders interferes with the neck ring of the helmet. This forces their head forward and also prevents them from moving their head aft to the headrest for ejection if necessary.

We have modified an old pack to mock up a suitable spreader bar configuration which would cure the problem. This is shown in the enclosed photos. We have not adversely affected the function of the spreader action and have made the pack more comfortable for the pilots.

The following is a blow by blow description of our modification:

1. Horizontal Spreader Bar

- A. Remove stitching around two ends and top of drogue container from parachute pack.
- B. Cut stitching on spreader bar and back diagonals.
- C. Pull spreader bar down one inch at center of pack, forming a shallow "V" shape, and restitch.

2. Back Diagonals

- A. Cut stitching on fabric sleeves at shoulder area.
- B. Pull fabric over one inch and resew.

3. Excess Fabric

- A. Cut excess fabric out between diagonals down to top edge of pack and refinish raw edge with binding tape.

4. Tie Loops

- A. Attach two tie loops on end flaps of drogue container and top flap of main parachute pack so as to hold drogue container from rolling forward.

5. Tack drogue release housings down with type "E" thread so as to break away on opening shock.

In particular, we would like to have this modification accomplished on two parachutes as soon as possible for use by our company pilots at [redacted]

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I am sending a copy of this letter to [redacted] to keep him informed of our request. I believe this modification would be desirable for all pilots and perhaps could be scheduled in during your normal factory over-haul of the parachutes.

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Best regards,

meb

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cc: [redacted]